

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the entire paragraph 1 on page 1, lines 1-7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The present invention relates to novel hepatitis C virus ("HCV") protease inhibitors, pharmaceutical compositions containing one or more such inhibitors, methods of preparing such inhibitors and methods of using such inhibitors to treat hepatitis C and related disorders. This invention specifically discloses novel macrocyclic compounds as inhibitors of the HCV NS3/NS4a serine protease. The disclosure herein is related to that in pending patent application, Serial No. 09/825,399 filed April 3, 2001, which claims priority to provisional application, Serial No. 60/194,607, [[_____]] filed April 5, 2000. This application claims priority from provisional application, Serial No. 60/198,204, filed April 19, 2000.—

Please replace the entire paragraph 2 on page 6, lines 7-9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Pending patent application, Serial No. 09/825,399 filed April 3, 2001, which claims priority to provisional application, Serial No. 60/194,607, [[_____]] filed April 5, 2000, discloses certain macrocyclic compounds as inhibitors of the HCV protease as well as pharmaceutical compositions containing said compounds.--